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UOP Professor From Brazil Says CIA Debases Peace Corps

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The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has debased the once beautiful Peace Corps, Dr. Florindo Villa-Alvarez, a Covell College professor from Brazil, charged yesterday in a chapel address at the University of the Pacific.

"CIA agents play the role of anti-Americans in the Peace Corps to find out what others think," Villa-Alvarez declared.

The educator, who once trained Peace Corpsmen, indignantly reported that "some of my former students at New York University are being used by CIA to try to penetrate Brazilian student groups . . . degrading work."

'WORST KIND'

Villa-Alvarez, who has worked on socio-economic projects in Latin America for the United Nations as well as for his own country, sees U.S. influence as "cultural colonialism—the worst kind."

Thoroughly disenchanted with American and Brazilian approaches to progress, Villa-Alvarez asserted businessmen in both countries think only of their own interests and have "manipulated technical assistance to disserve both countries."

Since the rise of the military regime, Brazil has become "a paradise for foreign investments," Villa-Alvarez declared. The regime invited "an invasion, a take-over of Brazilian industries," he said, and the subsequent "denationalization is tragic and frightening."

The government sought foreign money by offering special privileges to foreign businessmen, he added.

He said U.S. experts in Brazil

are involved in the shaping of "the right way of behaving" through programs in which "every course outline is checked for content." People are being labeled subversive and the climate in Brazil today is one of "cultural terrorism, medieval censorship and tortures," Villa-Alvarez claimed.

'85 FIRED'

Pointing out that "85 outstanding scholars were fired last year in Sao Paulo alone," Villa-Alvarez said, "before they removed me I left the 'colony.'"

Reflecting his frustration, the professor, who has taught in the U.S., Brazil and other countries, said he officially "denounced" program perversions at every opportunity, and has even been praised for his efforts, but his reports have been shunted aside without action.

Warning that present tactics in South America "will raise radicalism against the United States," Villa-Alvarez "supported every word" of Dr. Richard Shaull, Princeton professor who declared at UOP Monday night that Latin America is ripe for revolution because there are no viable political alternatives for those who want reform.

Shaull also said the future of Latin America will be determined by what basic changes occur in the United States.

Villa-Alvarez, who has been associate professor of community development, sociology and cultural anthropology at Covell since September, noted that minorities in the U.S. are "claiming through violence what should have been given to them by right" but said he does not yet have a "complete grasp" of the local scene to enable him to discuss the social revolution here.